

APRIL 7, 1976

ANTI-SOVIET VIOLENCE IN THE U.S.

ANNCR: VOA NEWS ANALYST RONALD J. DUNLAVEY HAS THESE THOUGHTS ABOUT A RECENT INCIDENT OF ANTI-SOVIET VIOLENCE IN THE UNITED STATES:

VOICE:

LAST FRIDAY A SHOCKING INCIDENT OCCURRED IN NEW YORK CITY. TWO RIFLE SHOTS WERE FIRED INTO THE APARTMENT OCCUPIED BY THE FAMILY OF A MEMBER OF THE SOVIET MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS. WHAT MADE THE INCIDENT DOUBLY DISTURBING WAS THE FACT THAT IT WAS THE THIRD SUCH ATTACK TO TAKE PLACE THIS YEAR. RESPONSIBILITY WAS CLAIMED BY THE EXTREMIST ORGANIZATION CALLING ITSELF "JEWISH ARMED RESISTANCE." IN THE PAST, SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS HAVE SPONSORED VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST SOVIET TREATMENT OF JEWS.

THE RUSSIANS WERE UNDERSTANDABLY UPSET AND SOVIET AMBASSADOR YAKOV MALIK TOOK THE UNUSUAL STEP OF CIRCULATING A NOTE OF PROTEST AT THE UNITED NATIONS. HE PROTESTED THE HARRASSEMENT OF SOVIET PERSONNEL IN NEW YORK AND COMPLAINED THAT NOTHING HAD BEEN DONE TO BRING THE CULPRITS TO JUSTICE. BUT HE WENT FURTHER THAN THAT. HE ACCUSED AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES OF STIMULATING WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS "HEATED ANTI-SOVIET HYSTERIA." AND HE CALLED ON THE CANDIDATES AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO TAKE MEASURES WHICH WOULD CHECK THIS ESCALATION OF FEELING.

AS FAR AS THE SHOOTING INCIDENT IS CONCERNED, BOTH AMERICAN OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC FEEL AS STRONGLY ABOUT IT AS AMBASSADOR MALIK. THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, WILLIAM SCRANTON, ISSUED A STATEMENT QUOTING THE WORDS OF PRESIDENT FORD ON THE DAY THE SHOOTING OCCURRED. MR. FORD HAD CALLED IT "THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF UNCIVILIZED ACTS" CARRIED OUT BY---IN HIS WORDS--

"EXTREMIST GROUPS ACTING IN A SPIRIT TOTALLY CONTRARY TO THE AMERICAN TRADITION." MR. FORD HAD ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT HE WAS ORDERING THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION TO JOIN WITH THE NEW YORK POLICE IN EFFORTS TO TRACK DOWN THE GUILTY PERSONS. WHATEVER FORM TERRORISM TAKES, SAID MR. SCRANTON, WE INTEND TO ROOT IT OUT, AND WE EXPECT OTHER COUNTRIES TO DO THE SAME.

AS FOR THE ELECTION-YEAR CLIMATE AND THE STATEMENTS OF THOSE SEEKING THE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS -- THAT IS SOMETHING ELSE AGAIN. THERE'S A RUNNING ARGUMENT ABOUT THE WISDOM OF CERTAIN ASPECTS OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS, BUT MOST OBSERVERS WOULD CONCLUDE THAT THE TERM "ANTI-SOVIET HYSTERIA" IS, TO PUT IT MILDLY, AN EXAGGERATED DESCRIPTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE. ADMITTEDLY, SOME EXTREME STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE BY SOME POLITICAL CANDIDATES. OVERHEATED RHETORIC IS ENDEMIC TO AN AMERICAN POLITICAL CAMPAIGN, AND THIS YEAR IT SEEMS TO BE A LITTLE MORE PRONOUNCED THAN USUAL. BUT HYSTERIA IS HARDLY THE WORD TO DESCRIBE THE NATIONAL MOOD.

AND AS FOR ANY SUGGESTION THAT THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT TAKE STEPS TO CONTROL WHAT THE CANDIDATES SAY---THAT IS COMPLETELY OUT OF THE QUESTION. PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER HAVE REPEATEDLY ISSUED STATEMENTS REFUTING WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE GROSS INACCURACIES IN DISCUSSION OF FOREIGN POLICY. AND THE PRESS HAS BEEN STRONGLY CRITICAL OF SOME EXTREME CHARGES THAT HAVE BEEN MADE. BUT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE, AND WOULD BE CONSIDERED UNTHINKABLE HERE, TO ABRIDGE THE RECOGNIZED NORMS OF FREE SPEECH---AT ANY TIME, LET ALONE DURING AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN. WHAT CAN BE DONE, HOWEVER---AND IS BEING DONE---IS TO TAKE EVERY POSSIBLE STEP ALLOWABLE UNDER LAW TO INSURE THE PROTECTION

OF FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL AGAINST EXTREMIST ATTACKS. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CAN DO NO LESS, AND IT EXPECTS OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO DO NO LESS.

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